What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of the batimastat compound.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the batimastat compound is batimastat.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

7. A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of the batimastat compound.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the mammal is a human.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the batimastat compound is batimastat.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

13. A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound to the retina.

14. A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound to the retina.

15. A method of treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound and a polymeric suspension agent, wherein said composition is capable of delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of the batimastat compound.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the mammal is a human.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the batimastat compound is batimastat.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.01 to about 3 percent by weight.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

23. A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound, and a polymeric suspension agent, wherein said composition is capable of delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of the batimastat compound.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the mammal is a human.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the batimastat compound is batimastat.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.01 to about 3 percent by weight.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

28. The method of claim 23, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

29. The method of claim 23, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

31. A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound, and delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of the batimastat compound.

32. A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound, and delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of the batimastat compound.

33. A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a

therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a carboxyl-vinyl polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of the batimastat compound.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the mammal is a human.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the batimastat compound is batimastat.

36. The method of claim 33, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

37. The method of claim 33, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.1 to about 0.3 percent by weight.

38. A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a carboxyl-vinyl polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of the batimastat compound.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the mammal is a human.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein the batimastat compound is batimastat.

41. The method of claim 38, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

42. The method of claim 38, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.1 to about 0.3 percent by weight.

43. An ophthalmic composition for use in treating or preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal by topical administration to the eye, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound.

44. An ophthalmic composition for use in treating or preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal by topical administration to the eye, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound, and a polymeric suspension agent.

45. The composition of claim 44, wherein the batimastat compound is batimastat.

46. The composition of claim 44, wherein the batimastat compound is a batimastat salt.

47. The composition of claim 44, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.01 to about 3 percent by weight.

48. The composition of claim 44, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

49. The composition of claim 44, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.1 to about 0.3 percent by weight.

50. The composition of claim 44, further comprising a second batimastat compound.

51. The composition of claim 44, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

52. The composition of claim 44, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

53. The composition of claim 52, wherein the polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

54. A topical ophthalmic composition for use in treating or preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal, comprising a batimastat compound and a polymeric suspension agent, wherein said composition is capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of the batimastat compound to the retina.

55. The composition of claim 54, wherein the batimastat compound is batimastat.

56. The composition of claim 54, wherein the batimastat compound is a batimastat salt.

57. The composition of claim 54, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.01 to about 3 percent by weight.

58. The composition of claim 54, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

59. The composition of claim 54, wherein the batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.1 to about 0.3 percent by weight.

60. The composition of claim 54, further comprising a second batimastat compound.

61. The composition of claim 54, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

62. The composition of claim 54, wherein the polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

63. The composition of claim 62, wherein the polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

64. A method of treating or preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal, comprising topically administering a composition of claim 54 to an eye of a mammal.

65. A topical ophthalmic composition for use in treating or preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal, comprising about 0.1 to about 0.3 percent by weight of batimastat and about 0.5 to about 1.25 percent by weight of a polymeric suspension agent, wherein said composition is capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of batimastat to the retina.

66. A topical ophthalmic composition for use in treating or preventing retinal neovascularization in a human, comprising about 0.1 to about 0.3 percent by weight of batimastat and about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight of a polycarbophil, wherein said composition is capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of batimastat to the retina.